


HOWDEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
December 31st, 1955



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HOWDEN RURAL DISTRICT

To the Chairman and Members of the Howden Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1955.

STATISTIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1—Area (in acres) 69,963

2—Estimate of the average population of the area during 1955—Civilian 11,730.

3—Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£174/2/6

The number of Houses built by the Council since 1946 is 400.

The chief industry throughout the District is Agriculture; other employment being provided by the Flax Mill, Ouse Chemical Works, the Creosote Works, Brickyards, Railways, Market Gardening, and the Haulage Industry.

Public Health Officers.

A part-time Medical Officer of Health.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—Mr. I. D. Kennaugh.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—Mr. F. R. Lawson.

Clerk/Typist—Miss B. Burton.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also acts as the Council's Building Surveyor and is responsible for the Water Undertaking, Public Cleansing and maintenance of Council property.

Both present Inspectors hold the Statutory qualification and also the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

					M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	68	79
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	7
					—	—
	Total	...	...	...	74	86
Still Born—	Legitimate	...	...	...	3	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	1
					—	—
	Total	...	...	...	3	2

The Birth Rate in the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Population—13·6.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1955 per 1,000 Population—15·0.

The Still Birth Rate for the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Population—24·4.

The Still Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 Population—23·1.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Pathological Examinations are carried out at the Beverley Area Laboratory and the West Riding Laboratory, Wakefield.

Infant Welfare.

This has now been taken over by the County Medical Officer, and continues to be well attended.

Maternity.

County Maternity Nurses are available in all parts of the Area.

Beds in the Beverley, Ferriby and Goole Maternity Homes are available for Special Cases, and the District is now fortunately situated in this respect.

Water.

The Supply from Newbald, Goole and Pocklington is good average water, and regular testing proves it to be very free from Impurity.

Ambulance Services.

There is a complete night and day Ambulance Service available at Beverley, Goole and Selby.

Wherever alternative means of conveyance is possible and suitable, use should be made of it.

Blood Transfusion.

During the year the Blood Transfusion Service came to Howden to collect Blood, and the Donors of the Area responded to the Call in a highly satisfactory way.

Our thanks are due to them, and also to the valuable help given by the Howden Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

Hospitals.

The Goole Bartholomew Hospital increases its facilities year by year, and Specialists in every Branch of Medicine and Surgery are available for the population of the Howden Rural Area.

The York Hospitals offer similar Facilities for the Northern part of the Area, whilst for the Eastern Villages, Hull and Beverley provide the necessary Hospitals.

The St. John's Hospital in Goole has considerably extended its availability for Medical Cases.

The days on which these Specialists are at Goole are as follows:—

Monday Morning—Physician.

Tuesday Morning—Orthopædic.

Tuesday Afternoon (alternate)—Gynæcologist.

Wednesday Morning—Surgeon.

Thursday Morning—Eye Specialist.

Thursday Morning—Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist.

Thursday Afternoon—Surgeon.

Friday Afternoon—Venereal Diseases.

A Children's Specialist visits the Goole Infant Welfare Centre.

There is no Fever Hospital in the Area.

Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total
Total Deaths in the Howden Rural Area in 1955	67	57	124
Death Rate per 1,000 Population in the Howden Rural Area—10·5.			

Death Rate for England and Wales—11·7.

Chief Causes of Death.

Heart and Circulatory Diseases—49.

Cancer including Cancer of Lung (3)—16.

Vascular Lesions of Nervous System—20.

Accidents including Road Traffic (0)—4.

Tuberculosis—1.

Pneumonia and Bronchitis—6.

All other causes—28.

There were no Deaths from any other Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Maternity Mortality.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—1.

Infant Mortality.

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths of Children under 1 year of age in the Howden Area	3	0	3
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births in England and Wales—24 9.			

Conclusions.

The Birth Rate for the Howden Rural Area is a little below the Birth Rate for England and Wales, and the Death Rate is very much lower.

There was One Death from Puerperal Causes, the first for some years.

Again there was only One Death from Tuberculosis, another great tribute to the wonderful work done by the Tuberculosis Medical Officers and their Staff in the Area.

There were no Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Tuberculosis.

During 1955 there was One Death from Tuberculosis and three new cases were notified.

The following notifications of Infectious Disease were received:—

Scarlet Fever, 4; Whooping Cough, 19; Measles, 320; Pneumonia, 17; Erysipelas, 4; Poliomyelitis, 1; Tuberculosis, 1.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccinations, 93. Re-Vaccinations, 7.

Immunisation, 178. Booster Immunisation, 292.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your faithfully,

F. WIGGLESWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the year 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Howden Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration a brief report concerning the Sanitary Administration of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

HOUSING GENERAL.

Council Houses.

During the year under review, the following houses were completed and occupied:--

Howden	...	...	16	Traditional
Holme/Moor	.	.	10	„
Gilberdyke	...	...	8	„
Newport	...	...	4	„
Broomfleet	...	...	4	„
Bubwith	...	...	2	„
				—
Total	...	...	44	

Houses in the Course of Erection.

Howden	...	...	20	Traditional
Gilberdyke	..	...	6	„
Eastrington		...	2	„
Newport	...	...	16	„
Bubwith	...	...	2	„
				—
Total	...	...	46	

At 31st December, 1955, the total of post-war Council Houses reached 434. Thus there is a total of 614 Council Houses in the District.

The maintenance of Council property continues to call for an increasing amount of time, and 1025 visits were made to Council Houses in respect of maintenance, and orders for repairs were given. Owing to pressure of work it was not possible to externally paint any houses this year.

Private Enterprise.

During the year 10 houses were erected by Private Enterprise, and at the year end a further 11 were in the course of erection.

Other Houses, Conversions and Adaptations.

Four completed.

Building Byelaws, Town and Country Planning Act.

Applications for new buildings and alterations in 104 cases were submitted and given Byelaw approval.

Under delegated powers of the Town and Country Planning Act, 130 applications were made, of which 118 were approved, and 12 refused. Of this latter number, 6 related to display of advertisements, and 1 to siting of a caravan.

During the year, 248 building inspections were made comprising 94 visits to new houses, and 154 to other works. Meetings of the County Development Sub-Committee were attended and liaison maintained with the County Planning Office.

Housing.

1. Housing Acts.

- (a) Houses demolished voluntarily and as a result of formal procedure—6.
- (b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 still in force—3.
- (c) Parts of Buildings closed—0.
- (d) Houses closed Local Government (Miscellaneous) Act—3.

2. Survey of Unfit Houses.

Under the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing (Rents and Repairs) Act, 1954, a survey of the district was made, and a rapid inspection made of 537 houses. Pressure of other work did not allow full investigation, but over 200 houses were listed as suitable for action and clearance over the next five years.

(a) Inspections and Repairs,

Number of Houses inspected for defects—537.

Number of Houses found unfit—206.

Number of Houses found in disrepair—66.

Number of Houses where repairs were executed—36

- (b) Certificate of Disrepair—No applications were received.

Overcrowding.

Inspections made—3.

Cases abated—3.

Moveable Dwellings.

Sites inspected—12.

Dwellings inspected—15.

Nuisances abated—7.

Improvement Grants.

An increased number of enquiries have been made and 112 inspections made covering preliminary visits to premises and supervision of works in progress.

During the year, 16 applications for grant were received and 15 approved. Of these, one applicant refused the grant offered and of the current 14 approvals works were completed in 6 cases, in progress on 7 and not commenced in 1 instance by the year end. Additionally, works were completed during the year at 4 premises for which grant was approved in 1954, thus 10 dwelling were improved in the year 1955.

The assistance available is still not being widely understood or taken up and as previously, grants given were to owner/occupiers and for farm cottages. Although many properties are eligible and worthy of improvement, it is to be regretted that full advantage is not taken of the grant. In several cases time has been given to inspection of premises, issue of schedules of improvement and repair with advice willingly given, but no applications were received. This adds to the burden already carried by the Department, which carried out all the work connected with inspection of premises, checking costs and estimates, with supervision and certification of works executed,

Drainage and Sewerage.

MAIN DRAIN.

1. (a) Howden Town. Works on this scheme continued throughout the year and progress was made towards completion of the main sewers and in construction of outfall works and pumping Stations.

During the year, lengths of sewer were laid:—

9 in. Spun Iron 2429 lin. yds. 9 in. S.G.W. 1445 lin. yds.

7 in. Spun Iron 1141 lin. yds. 7 in S.G.W. 1224 lin. yds.

6 in. S.G.W. 193 lin. yds.

12 in. Spun Iron 156 lin. yds.

7 in. Pumping Main 1,030 lin. yds.

Throughout the year liaison was maintained with the Resident Engineer, and 343 visits were made, particularly in regard to placing of laterals and connections.

(b) Works on provision of additional sewers to some properties not included in the main scheme commenced in December, and figures above include first extension laid in Howden Market Place.

2. Joint Sewerage Scheme. During the year, 3222 yards of the 21in. Joint Sewer were laid in the Beverley Rural District, and contracts let for extension of same into this District, and also for the sewerage of North Cave Village. Thus the further provision of the main drainage in this district is imminent, and it is reasonable to expect that conjoined schemes to Hotham Newport, and Gilberdyke will follow in due course, and that consideration will be given in the near future to the remaining unsewered parts of the district.

3. GENERAL. The foregoing thus allows statements on the difficulties of drainage due to flatness of the district, and lack of main sewerage schemes, which for many years have been the first and oft repeated introduction to this portion of the report to now take their place as the terminating remarks on the subject. Cleansing of sanitary dykes continues in an attempt to reduce complaints until main drainage is available, and was carried out at the Old Derwent and South Howden, Laxton, Nordham, Eastrington, Asselby, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor and Newport. In connection with same, 87 inspections were made.

Sewerage Plants.

The total of Council Estate disposal plants remains at 9, but major extensions were carried out at Newport and Holme-on-Spalding-Moor. Maintenance continues to be performed by local men on part time basis, and 159 visits and inspections were made. Many of these were due to mechanical breakdowns, which were, in nearly all cases, remedied by the Officers. The need of a skilled mechanic remains evident. The portable pumps provided at two of the works have proved invaluable in dealing with breakdowns. Owing to new buildings being occupied before completion of Howden Sewerage Scheme, difficulties arose due to overloading of Derwent Estate Works which can only be overcome by diversion of sewage into the new main sewers.

Conversions and Drainage.

The number of inspections in connection therewith are:—

Drainage system found defective—184.

New drainage systems provided—47.

Drainage systems cleansed and repaired—137

Pail closets converted to W.C.s—31.

Improved Sanitary Accommodation provided :

(a) In Public Houses—4.

(b) In Places of Worship—2

(c) In Petrol Filling Stations—1.

Liaison is maintained with both River Boards covering the district to control new drainage and avoid pollution. The standard septic tank adopted after consultation with the

River Boards continues to be used where no main sewer is available.

Public Cleansing.

The system generally provides a weekly collection in the more densely populated areas and a for nightly collection elsewhere. Tipping sites are in use at Howden, East-rington, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor and North Cave. The scattered nature of the district and lack of tip sites causing long hauls present the main difficulties. Some labour shortage early in the year occurred and replacement of staff for collection of mixed refuse is not easy.

Although provision of new tipping sites is extremely difficult, it is hoped that continued provision of main drainage and the consequent abolition of pail closets will improve conditions by effecting reduction in bulk and foul nature of refuse, and allow better control of tips. On this point the assistance of householders in first burning more refuse of a bulky nature rather than depositing it directly in the bin, would greatly assist.

During the year trials were made of a larger capacity vehicle and useful information gained. Alterations in working methods and meals system were also introduced which have assisted materially in saving time and reducing mileage.

Meat and Food Inspection.

FOOD PREMISES. An attempt was made during the year to survey these premises and record data and correct records for future Hygiene Regulations. The number of premises and inspections made is set out below:—

	No. of Premises.	Inspections made
Groceries and General Stores ...	79	43
Ice Cream Premises	13	13
Fish and Chip Shops	14	8
Cafe and Restaurants	15	23
Bakehouses	1	3
Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops	16	1021
Knacker's Yard	1	3
Milk Dealer's Premises	11	7
Public Houses	40	80

Advice and verbal intimation were given in several cases, but no formal action was found necessary.

Milk.

Licenses for the sale of Sterilised, Pasturised and Tuberculin Tested milk have been issued for the district :—

11 Dealers Licences for the sale of milk from premises in the district.

2 Supplementary Licences for the sale of milk from premises outside the district.

These two latter cover the greater part of the area.

Meat Inspection.

Licences have been issued for 15 slaughterhouses and 33 slaughtermen's Licences. In the former case, these are all renewals of former licences.

The number of carcases inspected is tabulated below, and as there is a very marked increase (100%) figures for previous year are also listed :—

					1955	1956
					Carcases inspected.	
Beasts	...	...	...	...	864	412
Cows	...	...	...	...	21	13
Calves	...	...	...	...	8	8
Pigs	...	...	...	...	2840	1361
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	809	438
Total					4542	2232

Except in the case of sheep, all animals slaughtered have been inspected.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	864	21	8	not known	2840	Nil
Number inspected	864	21	8	800	2840	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1	3	Nil	2	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned						
..	92	5	Nil	8	65	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci						
	10.76%	38.09%	Nil	1.23%	2.53%	—

	Cattle Excluding Cows Cows Calves			Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses						
condemned ...	2	1	Nil	Nil	1	—
Carcases of which some						
part or organ was						
condemned ...	56	9	Nil	Nil	1	—
Percentage of the						
number inspected affected						
with tuberculosis	6.71%	47.51%	—	—	4.7%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some						
part or organ was						
condemned ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—
Carcases submitted to						
treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—	—
General and totally						
condemned ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

This work occupies considerable time, but is carried out often to the detriment of other duties. Thanks to co-operation of butchers, week-end and overtime working has been reduced to a minimum. The provision of powers to authorise indelible staining of unsound meat would be of material assistance.

Factories-

Extracts from the Statutory return of administration under the Factories Act, 1937, are given below :—

	No. on Register	Inspections
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	2	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	42	40
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) ...	11	11

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.				Referred by H.M.
Sanitary Conveniences:				Found. Remedied. Inspector.
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	

Shops Act.

No necessity for legal action arose during the year, and 5 inspections were made.

Petroleum Regulations.

The total amount of petrol storage licensed at 31st December, 1955, was 52,630 gallons at 87 premises.

Fourteen inspections under the Regulations were made during the year.

Water Supply.

No major works have been carried out during the year which has been devoted mainly to maintenance of supplies. The year was dry with a hot summer period and although the level of the bores fell rapidly during autumn, no restrictions were necessary. Complaints of low pressure in Howden were made during the summer months, although all available supplies were connected. The proposed link main from Spaldington Water Tower to Howden Town has yet to be laid and in view of the future increased demand following completion of main sewerage difficulties will arise until the link main is laid.

The year was notable for the large number of burst and leaking mains repaired which totalled 70. No doubt the dry conditions, movement and shrinkage of the clay sub-soil contributed greatly to these fractures.

Fifty-four new connections to mains were made, there being 32 for new dwellings and 22 for other purposes.

Minor works included a length of private fire main at Blacktoft Jetty and over 400 yards of lin. service provided to supply 4 houses in Bulmer Lane, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor.

From the Council's Pumping Station at North Newbald, a total of 140,890,000 gallons were pumped and of this amount 53,233,000 gallons were supplied to the High Hunsley reservoir and South Cave systems of the Beverley R.D.C.

Bulk supplies taken from adjoining authorities were:—

From Goole Borough	...	...	20,334,000 gallons.
From Pocklington R.D.C.	...	...	77,553,000 gallons.

Twelve routine bacteriological examinations of water supplied from North Newbald was made, and all found satisfactory, save in one instance. An immediate resampling was carried out therefore, and found satisfactory.

During the year one vehicle was renewed, a mechanical road breaker purchased, and 81 visits and inspections made on matters connected with water supply.

Rodent Control.

Extracts from the Statutory return are given below:—

	Local Authority.	Houses.	Business Premises.	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	Agricul- tural.
1. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	17	3699	339	4053	560
2. Number of Properties inspected as a result of (a) Notification	—	22	10	32	8
(b) Survey under the Act	17	296	191	504	10
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visiting primar- ily for some purpose)	— —	1768 2086	46 247	1814 2350	60
3. Total inspections car- ried out, including re- inspections	17	2086	247	2350	78
4. Number of Properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by Rats (minor)	6	29	18	53	10
Mice (minor)	1	2	—	3	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the L.A.	7	31	18	56	19
6 Total treatments car- ried out, including retreatments	7	31	18	56	10

Disinfestation.

In 8 cases inspection and treatment of insect infestations were carried out.

Infectious Diseases.

9 inspections were made and disinfection carried out in 3 instances.

Dangerous Building.

Inspections ... ..	...	...	...	8
Formal notice served ... ..	...	...	...	1
Building demolished ... ..	...	...	...	1
Building repaired ... ..	...	...	...	3

Miscellaneous.

Seventy-nine inspections in connection with complaints, nuisances and other matters were made during the year.

Mr F. R. Lawson, Additional Sanitary Inspector, resigned and gave up his appointment 31/12/55.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, the work of the department continued to rise and there are no signs of it diminishing but rather of increasing, I now feel that efficiency is somewhat impaired, and in many instances time did not allow full attention to be devoted to all matters arising.

Whilst one must deplore the fact some duties had to be neglected as priority was accorded to more urgent and pressing matters, the fact remains that such has been the case, and I must therefore again record appreciation of loyal support and co-operation of the staff of this department given me in the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. D. KENNAUGH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.